



## Fall 2013 E- Newsletter



# Nevada Historical Society

## Society News

### Exhibit Schedule

**6th Annual Latimer Miniature Exhibit**  
October 11–December 14, 2013  
Free Reception Oct 11th 5:30–7:30p

**150 Years of Nevadan Stories Told Thru Collections**  
January 17th–May 31th, 2014  
Free Reception January 17 5:30–7:30p

**Glimpses of Nature thru the Lens**  
Jerry Fenwick  
June 13th–September 27, 2014  
Free Reception June 13th 5:30–7:30p

### Photography Request—

Did you know? The Society is actively seeking contemporary images to help enhance our photography collection. We are looking for photos from the years of 1960 to 2000, documenting people, places, buildings and community events.

### 150 Objects being cataloged for NV150 —

During our Sesquicentennial celebration, the Manuscript collection is working to process hidden collection materials and make them available in the library. We will be posting these hidden treasures lists on our website and Facebook. Keep an eye out for them.

### Interesting Society Fact—

When the Society moved from the State

Building (Pioneer Center) to our present location, we kept the research library operations going in a temporary location, in the basement of the old St. Albert's school during the years of 1966–1968.

### Seeking Articles for Quarterly Publication—

We are in process of submitting the 2012 issue. The 2013 issues, spring/summer and fall/winter will be coming out in the next few months. With that said, we will be accepting new articles and book reviews. For more information, please call Shery.

### History for the Holidays — Dec 14th 11–4pm

Don't miss our annual event that promotes buying gifts from local Nevada artisans, including leather, blown glass, wood products, art and local Honey. We feature local authors selling their latest Nevada books. We will happy to have the Galena Carolers, Santa Claus, holiday treats.

## Photography Collection News

Possibly the single most important album donated to the Society in the past few years is that compiled by Carrie and Howard Lee during their stay at Thompson, the company town for the Mason Valley Mines Company copper smelter.

Mr. Lee worked at the smelter as did his younger brother, Rex, who was a mining engineer for the company. The family left in 1914 when the smelter shut down.

The collection includes an illustrated memoir

that not only describes their family life but each step of the smelting process inside the plant.

The collection provides the only known interior views of the Thompson Smelter. The town and smelter are now completely gone. What many people take for a large hill at the site is really the giant slag heap produced by the smelter during its years of operation.

The collection was donated by the Brown Family, descendants of these early residents.



Thompson Smelter pouring ingots, c1912

## Education Program

The fall brought a new wave of students to the Society, November being our busiest month with seven tours scheduled! Noteworthy this year is the increase of adult-level tours, from a variety of agencies including UNR, TMCC and national conference groups.

Additionally, 2013 has seen a 84% increase in tour attendance over 2012, and 11 groups this year either discovered us for the first time or RE-discovered us for the first time in many years.

We are thrilled to be growing our numbers and

reaching so many within our community! Our tours are possible due to the ongoing participation and support of so many of our dedicated Docents here at the Society. We are thrilled to welcome several new members to our Education group, but we are always looking for more!

If you think you might love sharing our history with children – or adults – and might be interested in joining this wonderful group, please contact Christine Johnson for more information at (775) 688-1191 x231 or email [ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org](mailto:ckjohnson@nevadaculture.org).

**Happy Thanksgiving**  
from the Society staff

### Programming Schedule

Please visit our [website](#),  
Facebook page for the latest  
information or just click  
[here](#).

### Research Library is Seeking Book Donations—

We would like to add the following books to our permanent collection.

Lost Legacy of Carson Valley: The Rise and Fall of H.F. Dangberg Ranching Empire, by Steve "Dick" Achard and Conrad Buedel, 2013.

Blood of the prophets: Brigham Young and the massacre at Mountain Meadows, by Will Bagley, 2002.

Landing in Las Vegas, Commercial Aviation and the Making of a Tourist City, Bubb, Daniel K., 2012.

Nevada's Changing Wildlife Habitat, An Ecological History, Gruell, George E., 2012.

Reclaiming Basque, Language, Nation, and Cultural Activism, Urla, Jacqueline, 2012

## Manuscript Collection News

One of our docents, Sam Chapman, passed away on October 20th, 2013. He volunteered in the Library and Store for the past 16 years.

In Sam's previous career, he was a prominent policeman and professor known for his authority in using police dogs. The Society is honored to have his Manuscript collection (MS/NC 753) that encompasses his research for eight books, reports and numerous articles during his career.

His last two books, *Police Dogs in North America* and *Murdered on Duty: The Killing of Police Officers in America* were written in the 1990s before he retired.

In 1965, Sam moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as Assistant Director of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, established by President Lyndon Johnson.

Afterwards, Chapman became a Professor of Political Science at the University of Oklahoma and by 1971, Chapman was elected to the Norman City Council. He served six years being the city's mayor pro-tem. Sam Chapman retired from the University of Oklahoma in 1991, and moved to Nevada, Reno to be an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Come and check out this fascinating collection.

## History Biennial Conference

The Society will be bringing back our Biennial History Conference in honor of Nevada's Sesquicentennial. We will be hosting the two-day conference at the Society on Thursday and Friday, March 20th and 21st, 2014. This coincides with the University of Nevada-Reno Spring break, March 17-21, 2014.

This is an opportunity for history enthusiasts, students

And professors to submit Nevada related topics for the conference and potential materials for the Quarterly publication.

Watch for more information to come out in the next month. Any questions, please call Shery at 775-688-1190 x 222 or email [shayezorn@nevadaculture.org](mailto:shayezorn@nevadaculture.org).

## Museum Artifact Collection

### Notes from the Crypt.....

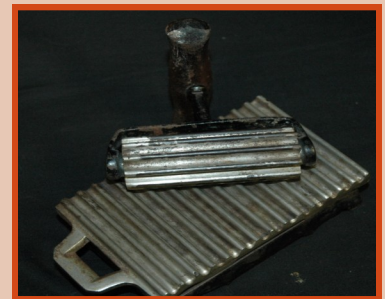
The Society is thrilled to have recently acquired an amazing iron collection, consisting of 140 sample irons, sadirons (irons heated on open fire or stoves), gas, charcoal and electric irons.

The collection was a result of more than half a century of collecting by Reno resident Mrs. Elinor Erickson, who has deep ties to Nevada, as the daughter of the Jensen and Springmeyer families of Gardnerville. The acquisition of this collection, combined with the irons already in the artifact catalog, makes this the largest collection

of irons in the State.

The irons span two centuries and reflect a wide variety of styles and purposes. For instance, some were made specifically for sleeves and collars, or for making pleats and ruffles.

From the traditional cast iron, to double-sided irons with detachable handles (beginning in 1870) to early electric irons (1882) to contemporary models of today, Mrs. Erickson's generous donation is a great addition to the artifact collection at the Nevada Historical Society.



Crimping Iron for ruffles, c1890s

## Museum Store News

Exciting news that you have been waiting for.....

Volume 2 of *Reno Now and Then* by Neal Cobb and Jerry Fenwick is in the store, (at least until it's sold out). This second edition book retails for \$34.95, but with your member discount the cost is \$29.71.

2014 is right around the corner. I have purchased limited quantities of two favorite 2014 calendars created by *Nevada Magazine* and *Cactus Creations*, who's beautiful colorful images are suitable for framing.

If you know anyone who stayed at the **Morris Hotel** on 4th Street, they will want a copy of Mona Meservy Melton's beautiful, detailed photo memento of the family business. We wish more people would take the time to document such lovely buildings of the past.

Remember that the museum store is a great shopping place for the upcoming holidays. Don't miss our annual **History for the Holidays** event, where we offer 20% discount on most store products once a year on Saturday, December 14th from 11am—4pm.

"Real museums are places where Time is transformed into Space."  
— Orhan Pamuk



Stop by, the store has some great gift ideas this season!!